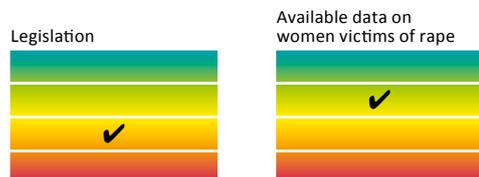


NATIONAL ANALYSIS

Cyprus



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Legislation

Rape, including marital rape, is punishable by law with a maximum sentence of life in prison and for attempted rape 10 years in prison. The Violence in the Family Law L. 47(I)/1994 recognises rape within marriage.

Punishments for rape and other sexual offences defined by Cyprus Criminal Law are very strict on paper but in reality very few cases of rape proceed to trial.

Section 144 of the Criminal Code CAP.154 states that "Any person who has unlawful carnal knowledge of a female, without her consent, or with her consent, if the consent is obtained by force or fear of bodily harm, or, in the case of a married woman, by impersonating her husband, is guilty of the felony termed rape."

Section 145 of the Criminal Code CAP. 154 states that "Any person who commits the offence of rape is liable to imprisonment for life."

Section 146 of the Criminal Code CAP. 154 states that "Any person who attempts to commit rape is guilty of felony, and is liable to imprisonment for ten years."

Section 153 of the Criminal Code CAP. 154 ("Defilement of girls under thirteen (13) years of age") states

that "(1) Any person who unlawfully and carnally knows a female under the age of thirteen (13) years is guilty of a felony and is liable to imprisonment for life" and "(2) Any person who attempts to have unlawful carnal knowledge of a female under the age of thirteen (13) years is guilty of a misdemeanour and is liable to imprisonment for three years."

Available data on women victims of rape

The relationship between offender and victim is not specified.

The data available from Government sources is very limited. It refers to **reported** sexual offences (see link below) and falls under the general category of 'serious crimes'.

Data is disaggregated by sex in the police administrative data system both for victims and for perpetrators of sexual offences. The data that is publicly available is simplified to only number of reported etc. without details but is available on request.

[www.police.gov.cy/police/police.nsf/All/93254FC38F3C8CA1C22579F40021BEFD/\\$file/sovaroeglimagr.pdf](http://www.police.gov.cy/police/police.nsf/All/93254FC38F3C8CA1C22579F40021BEFD/$file/sovaroeglimagr.pdf)



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CRIME	2009			2010			2011		
	Reported	Detected	%	Reported	Detected	%	Reported	Detected	%
Rape	27	22	81,5%	36	28	77,8%	38	31	81,6%
Attempted Rape	3	3	100%	2	1	50,0%	2	2	100,0%

*Note that the term 'detected' means that the police investigation led to a positive identification of the perpetrator. It does not reflect conviction rates.

Additional comments

Rape and sexual violence are among the most severely underreported forms of violence in Cyprus, as elsewhere in Europe. Although it is difficult to make country comparisons in rates of reported rape as these only make sense when linked to size of population, the figures suggest that Cyprus has a particularly low reporting rate along with other countries such as Ireland, Turkey, Malta, Italy and Hungary. From the available figures one can also note that although there are variations year on year, there is a shocking trend of increased reporting rates over the time period 1990-1996 with an increase of 361% and from 2000-2003 with an increase of 195%. There seems to have been a downward trend from 2004 to 2007 (41 reported in 2004 and only 19 in 2007) with numbers increasing again in 2009 (27 cases), 2010 (36 cases) and 2011 (38 cases). Despite the increase in reporting rates, when one compares figures for Cyprus with the European mean, reporting rates are still very low indeed. Furthermore, despite the increasing reporting rate there is a very low conviction rate with a 0.3 rate per 100,000 in 2003 and the respective rate for 2007 at 0.6, with the European mean for the years 2003-2007 between 1.7 and 2.0 per 100,000.

In 2008 the Mediterranean Institute of Gender Studies (MIGS) carried out a national study on date rape cases among young women. The study of 500 female students in tertiary education aged 18-24 revealed that although the date rape attempts (1.3%) and date rape cases (1.9%) percentages seemed to be small in this study, 12.2% of women who answered the questionnaire claimed to have had an 'unwanted sexual experience'. Of this number, the majority claimed to have given in to sexual acts due to overwhelming

pressure by their partners and fear of their partners leaving them if they did not consent. The inconsistency between the numbers of reported rapes and attempted rapes with 'unwanted sexual experiences' could be due to women not recognizing rape as such. This assumption is consistent with the focus group discussions that were part of the study which demonstrated that women still hold traditional beliefs that reinforce patriarchal attitudes toward women and sexuality. The focus group discussions confirm that gender stereotypes as well as societal expectations with regard to women and men's behaviour (gender roles) can contribute to an atmosphere where date rape is possible and indeed acceptable.

Useful Contacts

There are no rape helplines, rape crisis centres, or specialized resources for rape or sexual assault in Cyprus. Victims can contact the Association for the Prevention and Handling of Violence in the Family helpline at 1440 (free of charge) or contact the Police at 119/112.

